GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2670
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
CONSTITUTION OF EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted an `Education, Research and Technology Department` under his Ministry;

(b) if so, the date on which the said department was constituted;

(c) the average annual budget of this department during the last three years;

(d) whether the department has made any achievements in the field of research and analysis;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the way they are likely to be made available to the common people?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) and (b): Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) has set upa Division called `Education Research Division` on 1.02.2001 as a part of reorganization of various Divisions of MIT. The areas of responsibility handled includes. Online Learning/e-Learning/Distance Education, Media Lab Asia, Technologies for 21st Century, ERNET India and Institutes of Higher Learning in IT.

(c),(d),(e) and (f): In the area of Online Learning, MITis setting up a National Resource Centre for Online Learning at National Centre for Software Technology(NCST), Mumbai and also supporting a few development projects at IGNOU, BITS Pilani,IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur. Expenditure for the above activity in the past three years is approximately Rs.608 lakhs.

Project formulation in the area of Quantum Computing, Molecular Computing, Biometrics etc. is being explored. Setting up of Media Lab Asia jointly with MIT Media Lab, USAhas been approved. An amount of Rs. 65 crores has also been approved for the one year exploratory phase. The objective of Media Lab Asia programme is to carry out research which focuses on bringing the benefits of stae-of-the-art and future technologies to the common man and thus help bridge the digital divide. The thrust areas for Media Lab Asia programme are creation, innovation and invention of futuristic technologies including Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for the benefit of common man, mainly for the areas of improvement of health, education and micro entrepreneurship.

In respect of ERNET India, approval for upgradation of the networkhas been obtained and implementation is in progress. Rs. 55 crores of budgetory support for a period of 4 years has been provided